MARVEL COMICS

THE EVERYMAN AVENGER

THUNDERSTRIKE

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CAN THE COMBINED POWER OF WAR MACHINE, ANT-MAN, SHE-HULK & THUNDERSTRIKE DEFEAT THE SINISTER SPELLS OF LOKI, GOD OF EVIL?

DIRECT EDITION

$1.50 US $2.10 CAN

WHEN ARCHITECT ERIC MASTERSON STAMPS HIS WOODEN WALKING STICK UPON THE GROUND, IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A MYSTICAL WEAPON CALLED THUNDERSTRIKE! ARMED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS, MASTERSON WORKS TO PROVE THAT ONE MAN MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECAUSE THIS WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THUNDERSTRIKE!

PACTS of VENGEANCE!

TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENE SCRIPT, STORY & PENCILS • AL MILGROM FINISHED ART • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • CHRIS D'ELLIPPO COLORIST • RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR • MARK GRUENWALD EDITOR IN CHIEF

THUNDERSTRIKE

WAR MACHINE

ANT-MAN

SHE-HULK

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A DAMP AND CHILLING MIST LEAKS INTO THE ROOM AS THE PLEXIGLASS SHIELD SLOWLY RISES...
PUNGENT FLUIDS GURGLE INTO A HUNGRY DRAIN...
AND EYES SUDDENLY SNAP WIDE, REVEALING A GLARE BOTH HAUNTING AND PITILESS...
AHHH!
MY HEAD POUNDS! MY LUNGS BURN!
AND YET, AFTER SO MANY MONTHS WITHOUT A PHYSICAL FORM, I WELCOME SUCH DISCOMFORTS!
CONGRATULATIONS, SETH! YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES HAVE DONE WELL!
A SIMPLE SPELL REVEALS THAT YOU HAVE RECREATED MY FORMER BODY...RIGHT DOWN TO CHILDHOOD SCARS!
YOU HAVE PERFORMED YOUR PART OF OUR BARGAIN TO PERFECTION, SERPENT GOD.
--AND HUMBLE LOKI STANDS READY TO FULFILL HIS!
I EXPECT NO LESS, ASGARDIAN!
I HAVE ALREADY PLACED MY MARK UPON YOUR INTENDED TARGET...MY MARK OF DEATH!
CARRY THE WORD TO THE ONE CALLED THUNDERSTRIKE... THE SANDS OF HIS LIFE ARE RAPIDLY SEEPING INTO THE HOURGLASS OF OBLIVION!
SETH IS COMING AND DEATH WILL SOON CLAIM HIM!

HEY, GOOD LOOKIN'! HOW'S YOUR OLD HAMMER--OOPS, I MEAN MACE--SWINGIN'?

GLAD WE COULD FINALLY LINK UP, SHE-HULK! TREATING YOU TO A GOOD MEAL IS THE LEAST I CAN DO AFTER INVOLVING YOU IN THAT STUPID FIASCO A FEW WEEKS BACK!*

YOU WON'T GET AN ARGUMENT OUT OF ME!

HOPE YOU BROUGHT YOUR APPETITE! I'M FAMISHED! I JUST FINISHED A MEGA-WORKOUT AT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HEADQUARTERS!

*SEE THUNDERSTRIKE #6 FOR DETAILS.--RALF

I'M LUCKY THEY STILL LET ME USE THEIR FACILITIES! THE THING IS ALWAYS UPGRADING THEIR EQUIPMENT! THEY HAVE A MUCH BETTER GYM THAN THE AVENGERS!

GAMMA RADIATION MAY HAVE GIVEN ME THIS BODY, BUT STAYING IN SHAPE TAKES MUCHO WORK, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...

ACTUALLY, I DON'T... MY BODY'S A PACKAGE DEAL WITH THE ENCHANTED MACE.

WE'RE TALKING PURE MAGIC!

LUCKY BOY! GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE DESSERT TRAY!

TALK ABOUT A SMALL WORLD! THAT'S JACKIE LUKUS SITTING AT THAT TABLE, BUT I CAN'T ACKNOWLEDGE HER WITHOUT BLOWING MY SECRET IDENTITY.

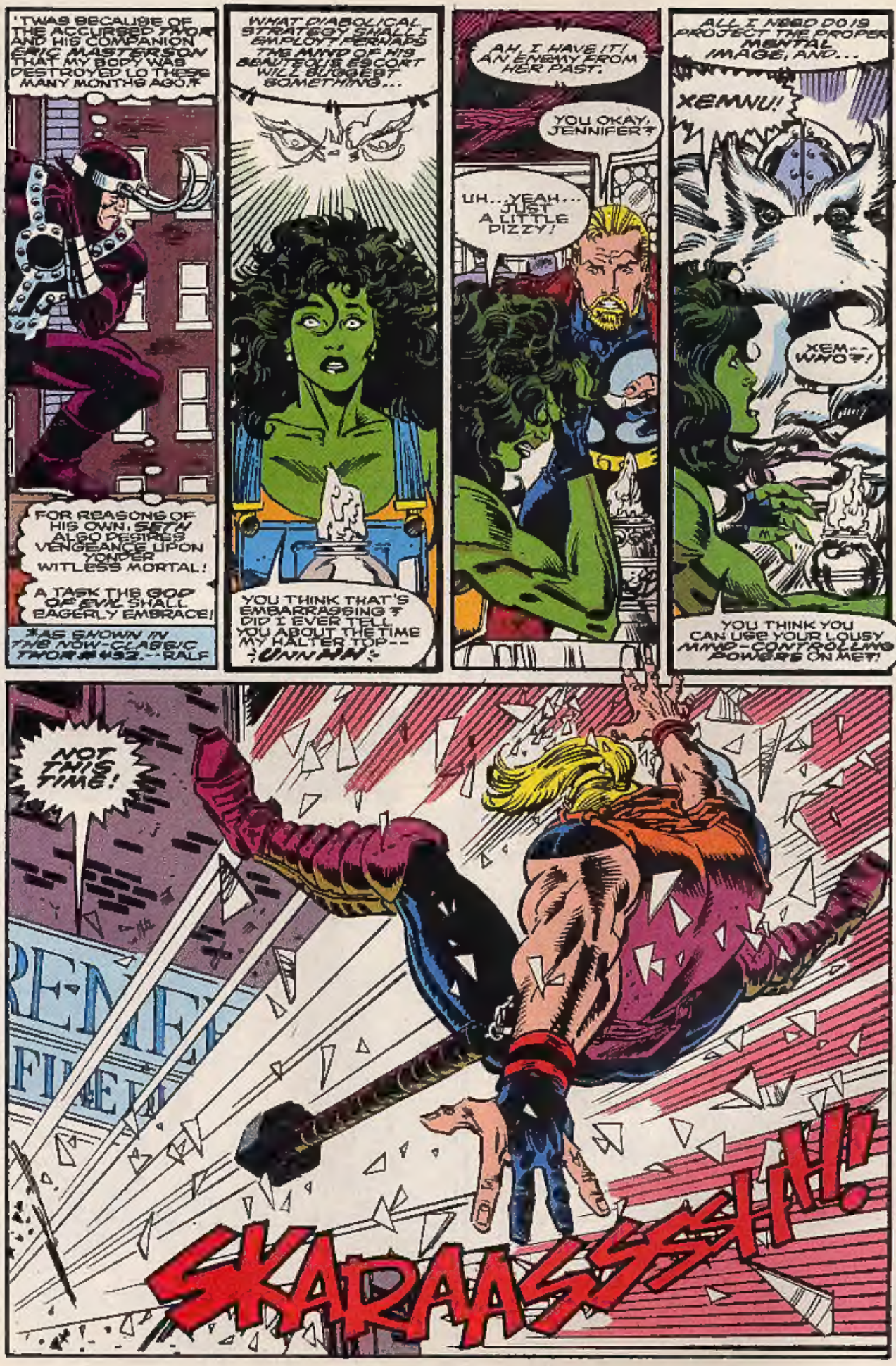
WE SEEM TO BE CREATING QUITE A STIR, STRIKE!

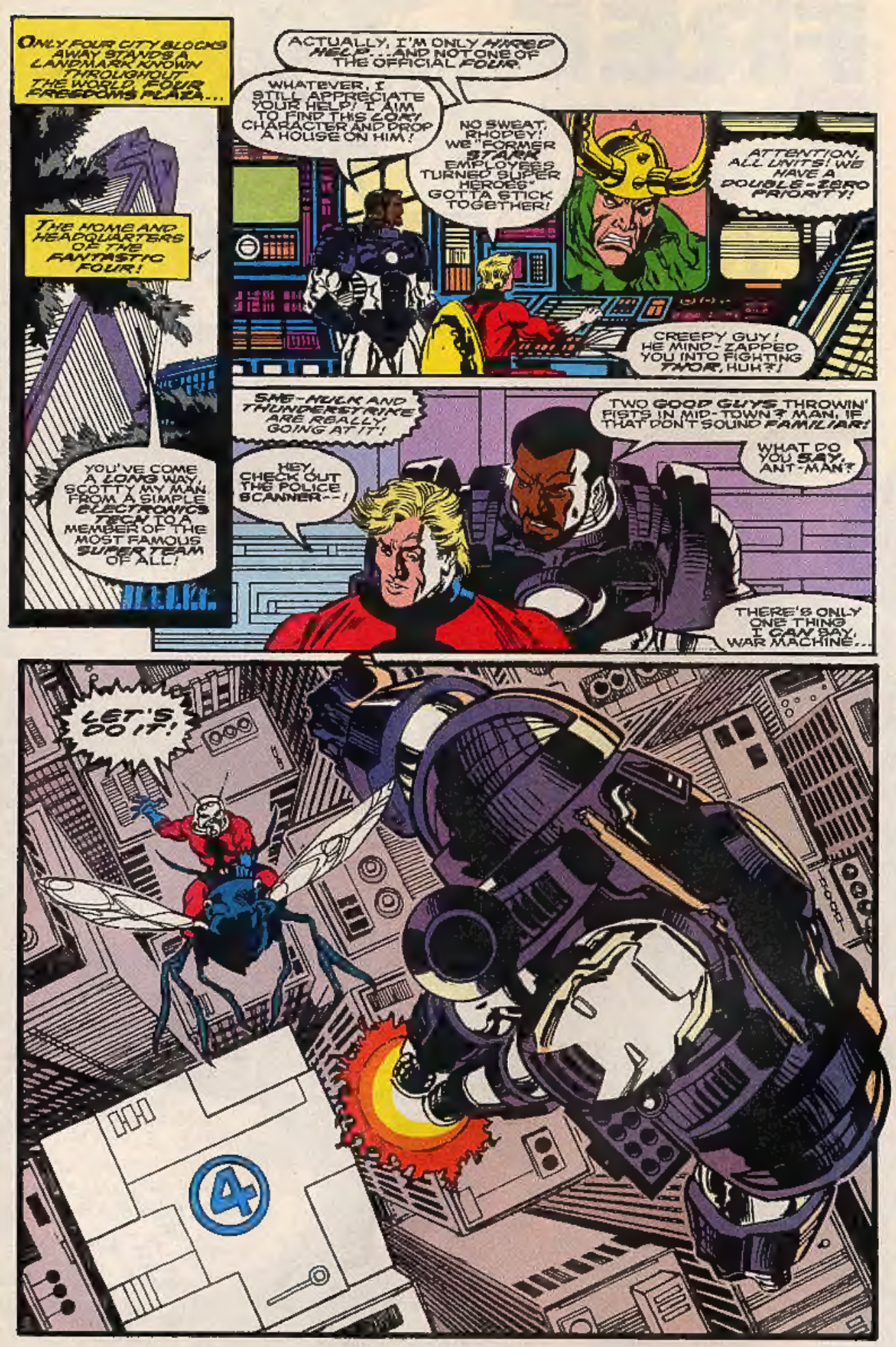
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE," GREEN LADY?

I'D HEARD THE FF OCCASIONALLY DINED HERE, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED WE'D SEE A PAIR OF AVENGERS.

I SHOULD READ MORE SUPERMARKET TABLOIDS!

I NEVER REALIZED THUNDERSTRIKE AND THE SHE-HULK WERE AN ITEM...


'TWAS BECAUSE OF THE ACCURSED THOR AND HIS COMPANION ERIC MASTERSON THAT MY BODY WAS DESTROYED LO THESE MANY MONTHS AGO.*
FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN, SETH ALSO DESIRES VENGEANCE UPON YONDER WITLESS MORTAL!
A TASK THE GOD OF EVIL SHALL EAGERLY EMBRACE!
*AS SHOWN IN THE NOW-CLASSIC THOR #432.--RALF
WHAT DIABOLICAL STRATEGY SHALL I EMPLOY? PERHAPS THE MIND OF HIS BEAUTEOUS ESCORT WILL SUGGEST SOMETHING...
YOU THINK THAT'S EMBARRASSING? DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME MY HALTER TOP--
UNNNH!
AH, I HAVE IT! AN ENEMY FROM HER PAST.
YOU OKAY, JENNIFER?
UH...YEAH... JUST A LITTLE DIZZY!
ALL I NEED DO IS PROJECT THE PROPER MENTAL IMAGE, AND...
XEMNU!
XEM--WHO?!
YOU THINK YOU CAN USE YOUR LOUSY MIND-CONTROLLING POWERS ON ME?!
NOT THIS TIME!
SKARAASSSH!


ONLY FOUR CITY BLOCKS AWAY STANDS A LANDMARK KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
THE HOME AND HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, SCOTTY MY MAN FROM A SIMPLE ELECTRONICS TECH TO A MEMBER OF THE MOST FAMOUS SUPER TEAM OF ALL!
ACTUALLY, I'M ONLY HIRED HELP...AND NOT ONE OF THE OFFICIAL FOUR.
WHATEVER, I STILL APPRECIATE YOUR HELP! I AIM TO FIND THIS LOKY CHARACTER AND DROP A HOUSE ON HIM!
NO SWEAT, RHODEY! WE "FORMER STARK EMPLOYEES TURNED SUPER HEROES" GOTTA STICK TOGETHER!
ATTENTION, ALL UNITS! WE HAVE A DOUBLE-ZERO PRIORITY!
CREEPY GUY! HE MIND-ZAPPED YOU INTO FIGHTING THOR, HUH?!
SHE-HULK AND THUNDERSTRIKE ARE REALLY GOING AT IT!
HEY, CHECK OUT THE POLICE SCANNER--!
TWO GOOD GUYS THROWIN' FISTS IN MID-TOWN? MAN, IF THAT DON'T SOUND FAMILIAR!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, ANT-MAN?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN SAY, WAR MACHINE...
LET'S DO IT!

NO NEED TO RUSH OFF, ZEMMY OL' PAL!
I'VE ALREADY RESERVED A NICE QUIET HOSPITAL ROOM IN YOUR NAME!
MOVE IT, PEOPLE! CLEAR THE STREET!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO SHE-HULK? WHY IS SHE ACTING LIKE THIS?!

XEMNU SEEMS FOCUSED ON THAT POOR WOMAN!
GOTTA PROTECT JACKIE! IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HER--!
THUNDERSTRIKE IS OUTMATCHED! HE NEEDS HELP! IF ONLY I COULD--

WISH I KNEW WHAT XEMNU WAS DOING HERE. BUT THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS LATER!
RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON CAPPING HIM BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!
WHAKT!

NO TIME TO SWING AROUND AND BLOCK THIS CHUNK OF CONCRETE WITH MY MACE--!
BLOK!
HOO-BOY! I REALLY HATE DAYS LIKE THIS!
I...I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THUNDERSTRIKE JUST SAVED ME BY DELIBERATELY SHOVING HIMSELF INTO THE PATH OF THAT DEBRIS!

Sha-BOOM!
Sha-BOOM!
Sha-BOOM!
CONCUSSION BLASTS! SOMEONE IS ATTACKING FROM ABOVE--!

EASY, PRETTY LADY! FROM THE WAY THE FIGHT WAS GOIN', I'M GUESSIN' YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS NOT IN YOUR RIGHT MIND--
WAR MACHINE--?!
--BUT I'M HOPIN' THOSE SHOCKWAVES SET YOU STRAIGHT!
I'M NOT ALONE! THE ANT-MAN IS ALSO IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

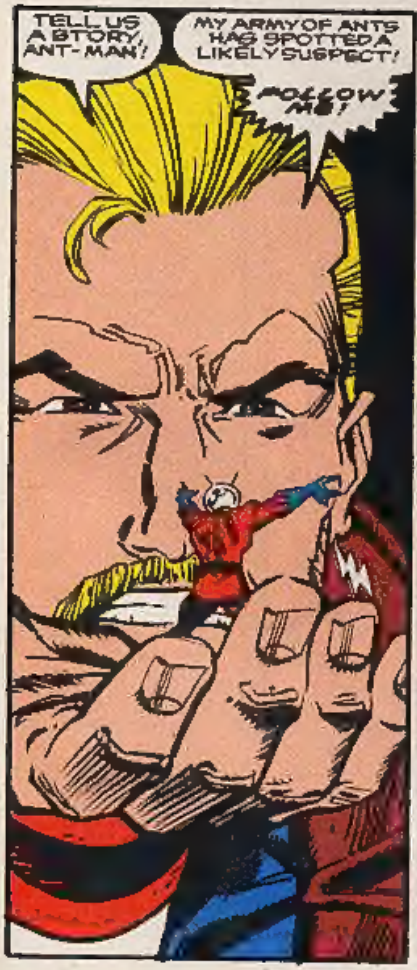
HEADS UP, GUYS!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WEIRDO WITH A PAIR OF REAL-LEE BIG HORNS ON HIS HEAD!

YOU WITH US, SHE-HULK?
WONG!
NOT A CHANCE, PAL!
XEMU IS PLAYING YOU LIKE A PUPPET!

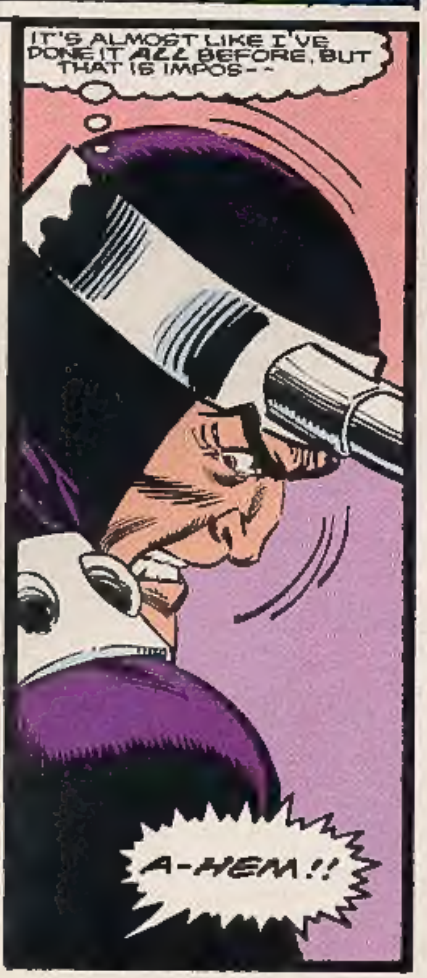
OUCH! POOR WAR MACHINE NEVER EVEN SAW THAT COMING!
BUT I THINK HE WAS ONTO SOMETHING WHEN HE TRIED TO ZAP JEN OUT OF WHATEVER'S CONTROLLING HER!
TROUBLE IS, HE DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH!
MAYBE MY ENCHANTED MACE CAN DRAW ENOUGH POWER FROM THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL SYSTEM TO DO THE TRICK!

SKRAKATAKAKA!

SLICK MOVE, 'STRIKE!
WOBBLY! MY HEAD FEELS LIKE THE JUGGERNAUT HAS BEEN USING IT FOR A DANCE FLOOR!
I MAKE DO!
HOW'S THE GIRL, JEN?
YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT QUITE, BUT I SEE SOMEONE WHO DOES--!


TELL US A STORY, ANT-MAN!
MY ARMY OF ANTS HAS SPOTTED A LIKELY SUSPECT!
FOLLOW ME!

BLAST IT ALL! I SEEM TO HAVE TEMPORARILY LOST SIGHT OF THOSE TROUBLESOME MORTALS!
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SCENARIO IS HAUNTINGLY FAMILIAR!

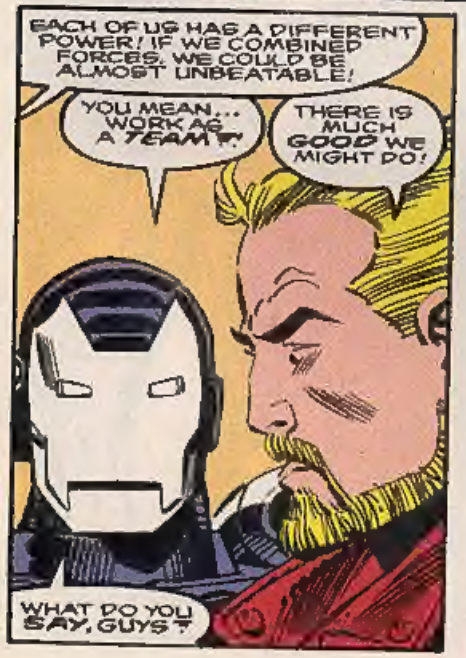

IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'VE DONE IT ALL BEFORE, BUT THAT IS IMPOS--
A-HEM!!

OH, NO!

NO! THIS CAN'T HAPPEN!
NOT AGAIN!

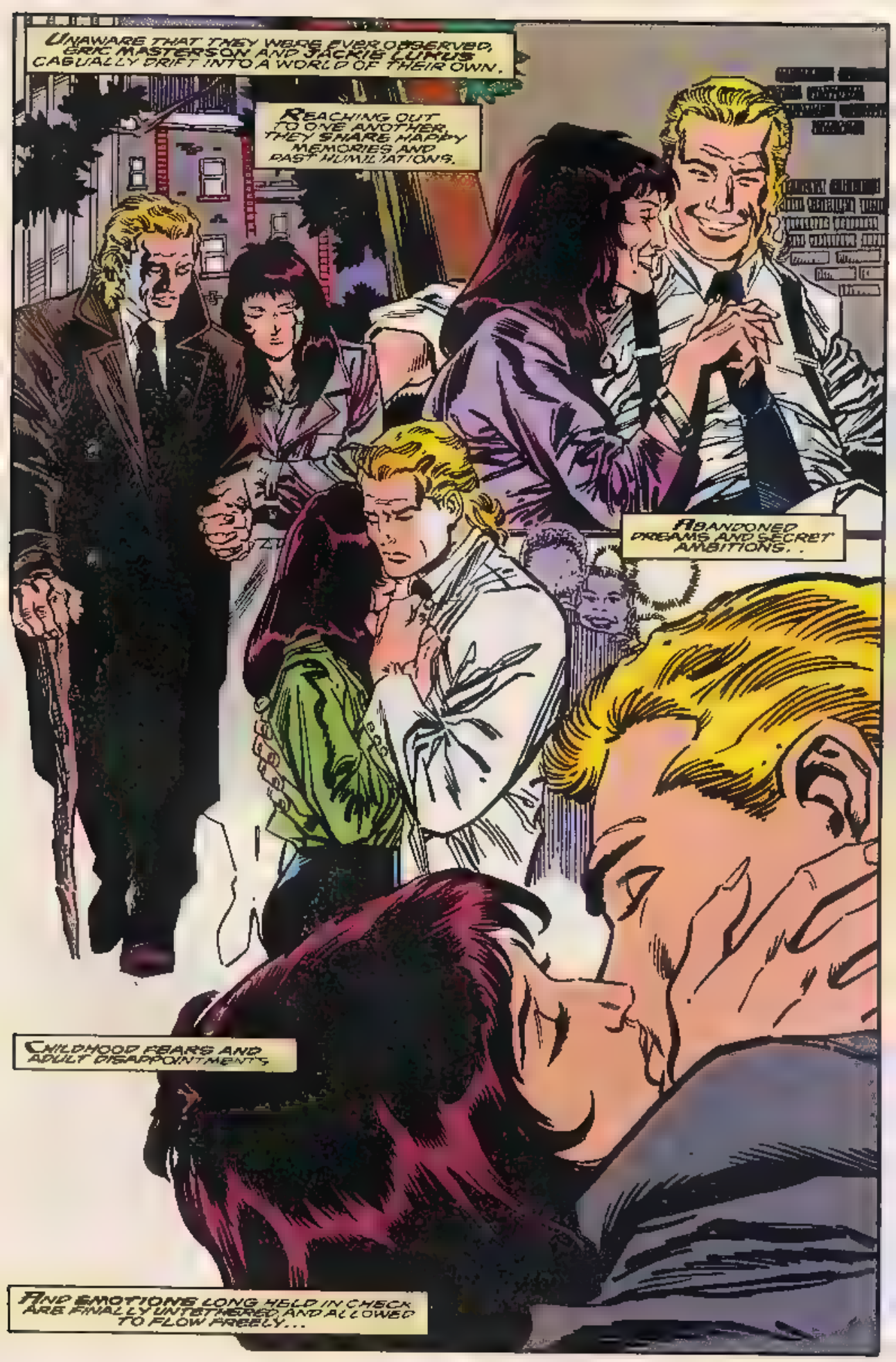
LOOK! IT WAS LOKI BEHIND EVERYTHING!
BUT WE'LL NEVER CATCH HIM NOW!

I GUESS WE'RE FINISHED HERE, BUT I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO LEARN WHAT PANICKED HIM AT THE END!
WAIT! BEFORE WE SEPARATE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY...


EACH OF US HAS A DIFFERENT POWER! IF WE COMBINED FORCES, WE COULD BE ALMOST UNBEATABLE!
YOU MEAN... WORK AS A TEAM?
THERE IS MUCH GOOD WE MIGHT DO!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, GUYS?

NAAHHH!

SOMETIME LATER. .
MOO-BOY! NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE FUN'N GAMES TO SPICE UP A DAY!
I WONDER WHO LOKI IS GUNNING FOR? HOPE IT AIN'T ME!
FUNNY, EVEN WITH ALL THE CRAZY SHENANIGANS, I STILL GOT A THRILL OUT OF SEEING JACKIE AGAIN
FOR AWHILE THERE, I WAS SO SURE WE WERE HEADED SOMEWHERE... THEN THEN LIFE GOT REAL COMPLICATED.
BLOODAXE REAPPEARED ON THE SCENE.
LEAH MOVED INTO THE LOFT I SHARE WITH SAM
AND THEN, I RAN INTO GETA!
WISH I COULD GET THIS STUPID MARK OFF MY CHEST, BUT IT STICKS WITH ME NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRANSFORM!
THE WAY MY SOCIAL LIFE IS GOING, NO ONE WILL EVER SEE IT, NOT UNLESS I GIVE JACKIE A CALL AND- HEY! SPEAK OF THE LADY!
ERIC--!
I'M SO GLAD I RAN INTO YOU. I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO THE LOFT.
YOU WERE?! WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
SOMETHING HAPPENED TODAY, SOMETHING WHICH CONVINCED ME THAT I SHOULDN'T TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR TONIGHT?
WELL.. NO!
LET'S DO DINNER!
I LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK MS LUKUS
CAN IT BE--?
ERIC IS WITH. THAT WOMAN!
FOR A HANDFUL OF MOMENTS, LEAH PRINCESS WATCHES THE RETREATING FIGURES.
THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME FOR HER TO MAKE A MOST PAINFUL BUT NECESSARY DECISION..


UNAWARE THAT THEY WERE EVER OBSERVED, ERIC MASTERSON AND JACKIE LUMUS CASUALLY DRIFT INTO A WORLD OF THEIR OWN.
REACHING OUT TO ONE ANOTHER, THEY SHARE HAPPY MEMORIES AND PAST HUMILIATIONS.
ABANDONED DREAMS AND SECRET AMBITIONS...
CHILDHOOD FEARS AND ADULT DISAPPOINTMENTS
AND EMOTIONS LONG HELD IN CHECK ARE FINALLY UNTETHERED AND ALLOWED TO FLOW FREELY...

MANY HOURS LATER, HUMMING A LOVE SONG FROM HIS YOUTH A WISTFUL ERIC RETURNS HOME AND THEN.

LEAN--?

I FOUND THE NOTE YOU TACKED TO MY DOOR

WHAT'S UP? WHY D YOU WANT ME TO MEET YOU UP HERE?

HOW ARE YOU BLONDIE?

MET I'M DOING GREAT. FEEL IN' FINE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS! LIKE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN'T FIND SOME WAY TO HANDLE

I ASSUME YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THAT CONVERSATION YOU STARTED ABOUT BLOODAXE THE OTHER DAY

ERIC..

I M LEAVING!

WHAT--?!

HEY, IT'S BEEN A WILD PARTY. WE'VE HAD A LOT OF LAUGHS

BUT THIS WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE FOREVER

YOU CAN'T GO I STILL NEED YOU I COUNT ON YOU TO WATCH MY BACK

DON'T YOU REMEMBER TELLING ME HOW I BARELY RATE A ZERO POINT ZERO ON THE SURVIVAL SCALE?

WE BOTH KNOW THAT ISN'T TRUE ANYMORE

YOU LL DO OKAY ON YOUR OWN

BESIDES, I DON'T BELONG ON THIS WORLD. LEAN PRINCESS IS ONLY A NAME I ADAPTED FROM AN OLD MOVIE

I AM STELLARIS, RIDER OF THE SOLAR WINDS AND SLAYER OF CELESTIALS!

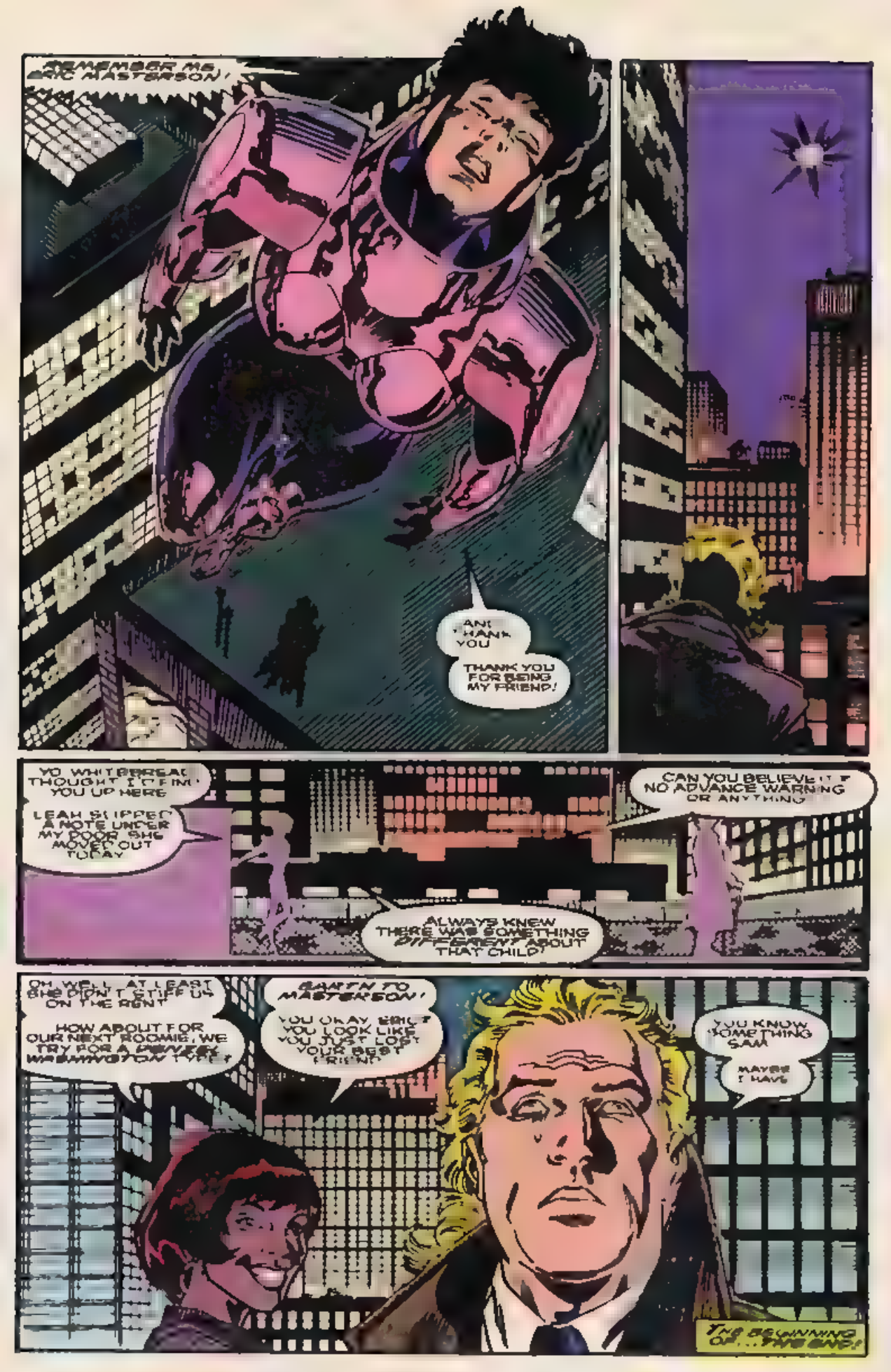
SPACE IS MY TRUE HOME.

AFTER OUR RECENT RUN INS WITH THE ABSORBING MAN AND SETH, I REALIZE I STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT MYSELF AND MY POWERS!

WE COULD LEARN IT TOGETHER

OH, BLONDIE, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THE KNOWLEDGE I NEED WON'T BE FOUND HERE..

AND YOU CAN'T TRAVEL WHERE I'M GOING!


REMEMBER ME, ERIC MASTERSON!
AND THANK YOU
THANK YOU FOR BEING MY FRIEND!
YO WHITBREAD! THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU UP HERE
LEAH SLIPPED A NOTE UNDER MY DOOR. SHE MOVED OUT TODAY
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? NO ADVANCE WARNING OR ANYTHING
ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THAT CHILD!
OH, WELL, AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T STIFF US ON THE RENT
HOW ABOUT FOR OUR NEXT ROOMIE, WE TRY FOR A PERVEY WEIRDO/CAN TYPE?
GARTH TO MASTERSON!
YOU OKAY ERIC? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST LOST YOUR BEST FRIEND
YOU KNOW SOMETHING SAM
MAYBE I HAVE
THE BEGINNING OF... THE END!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: tales of MIDGARD, HOME OF THE AMAZING HUMAN RACE!

The LEGACY! PART TWO

WHY THE DELAY, POPS?

I'M ANXIOUS TO HEAR THE END OF YOUR STORY

UH! SORRY, KEVIN GUESS I GOT DISTRACTED.

WHERE'D I LEAVE OFF...?

THE MIGHTY THOR SECRETLY VISITED THE EARTH ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO TO CHECK OUT THE SON OF AN OLD FRIEND, A DEAD VIKING NAMED BALDRIC.

I'M STILL HAVING A REAL HARD TIME ACCEPTING YOUR MOVE TO THE WEST COAST!

ONLY THE KID WASN'T A WARRIOR LIKE HIS FATHER.

THAT'S RIGHT! CEDARIC BELIEVED IN USING INTELLIGENCE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS NOT VIOLENCE!

UNFORTUNATELY, A BAND OF VANDALS WERE HEADED FOR HIS WAY AND THE CHIEFTAIN HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST BALDRIC.

CALLING HIMSELF, SIGURD, THOR RODE UP THE COAST IN SEARCH OF THE RAIDERS...

"AND FOUND THEM PLUNDERING A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE!"

UNHAND HER, VANDAL PIG! FACE SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE..

ULP.

...IF NOT WEIGHT!

PROLOGUE & EPILOGUE BY RON FRENZ, TOM DEFALCO & JANICE CHIANG
STORY BY RANDALL FRENZ • PENCILS BY RICH YANIZESKI • INKS BY KEVIN YEATS
LETTERS BY JACK MORELLI • COLORS BY
BASED ON AN IDEA BY RON FRENZ

FACE A FOE WHO DOES NOT COWER IN FEAR! FACE THE POWER OF SIGURD THE STRONG!

GET HIM! HE CAN'T POSSIBLY TAKE ALL OF US!

AWAY, YOU SPINELESS CURS! YOU FIGHT LIKE THE COWARDLY JACKALS YOU ARE!

FLEE! NO MERE MORTAL COULD BE THAT STRONG! THERE IS FOUL MAGIC AFOOT HERE!

THEIR REPUTATION FAR EXCEEDS THEIR ABILITY! OUR LADS MIGHT ROUT THEM AT THAT!

WAAUGH!

A FAMILY TRAPPED IN YON DWELLING!

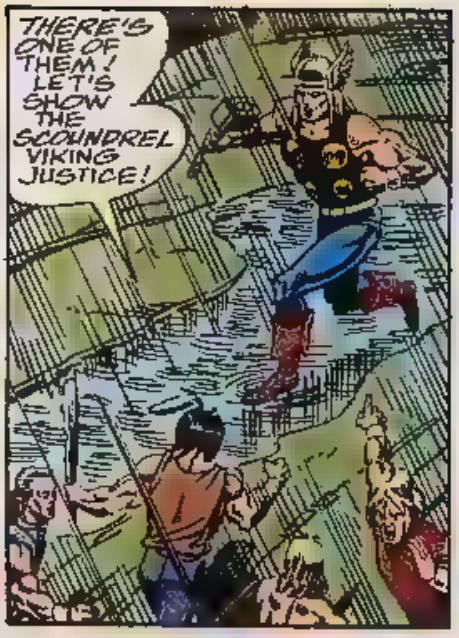
FEAR NOT! SIGURD SHALL SEE YOU SAFELY THITHER!

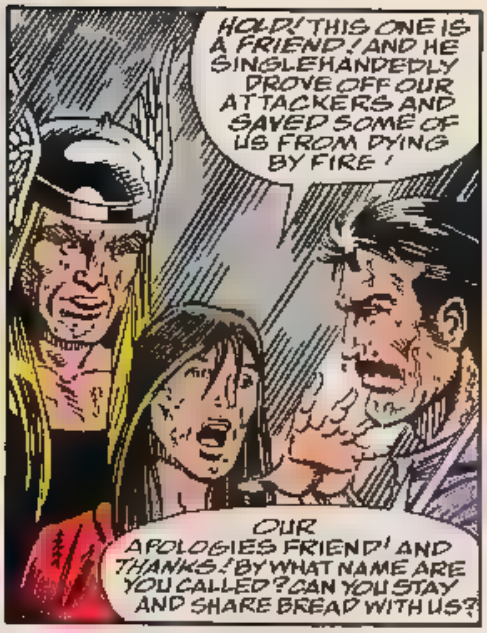
THANK YOU, SKAFF! SKAFF, BRAVE ONE! SURELY ODIN SENT YOU TO RESCUE US!

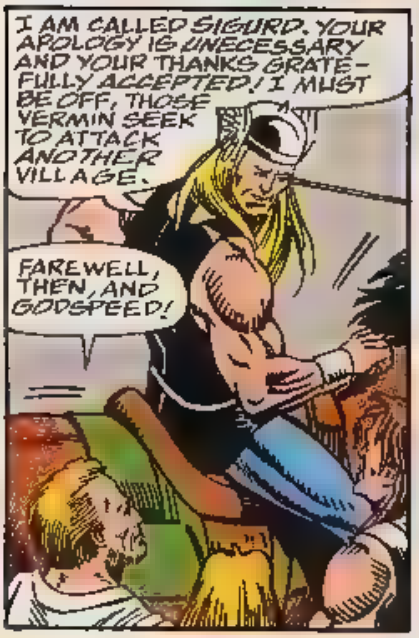
THAT IS TRUER THAN SHE KNOWS!

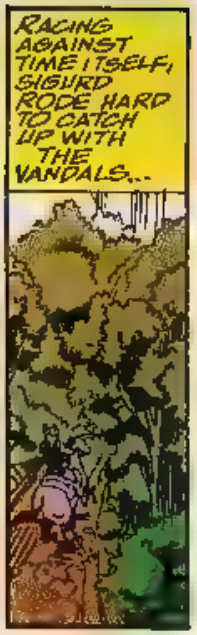
STRIKING HIS MIGHTY URU HAMMER AGAINST THE GROUND, THE DISGUISED THUNDER GOD SUMMONED...

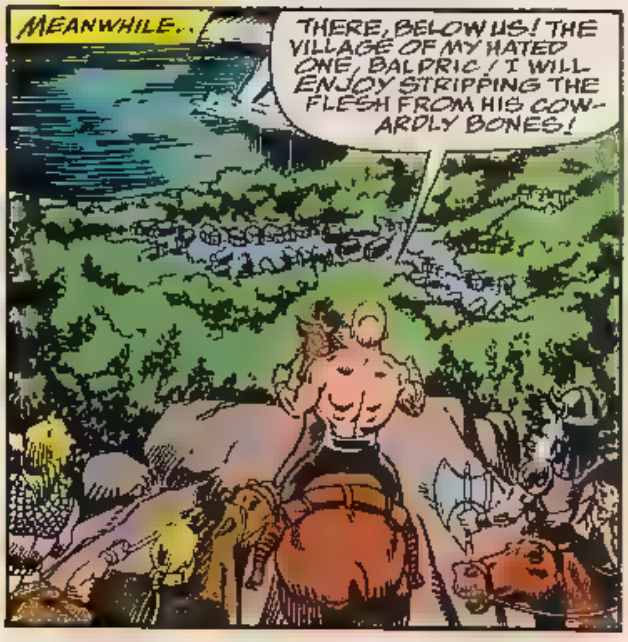
...A TORRENTIAL RAIN THAT QUICKLY DAMPENED THE RAGING FIRES!


THERE'S ONE OF THEM! LET'S SHOW THE SCOUNDREL VIKING JUSTICE!


HOLD! THIS ONE IS A FRIEND! AND HE SINGLEHANDEDLY DROVE OFF OUR ATTACKERS AND SAVED SOME OF US FROM DYING BY FIRE!
OUR APOLOGIES FRIEND! AND THANKS! BY WHAT NAME ARE YOU CALLED? CAN YOU STAY AND SHARE BREAD WITH US?

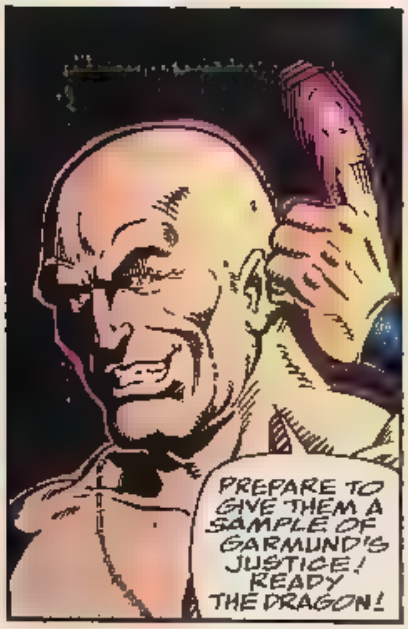

I AM CALLED SIGURD. YOUR APOLOGY IS UNECESSARY AND YOUR THANKS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED! I MUST BE OFF, THOSE VERMIN SEEK TO ATTACK ANOTHER VILLAGE.
FAREWELL, THEN, AND GODSPEED!


RACING AGAINST TIME ITSELF, SIGURD RODE HARD TO CATCH UP WITH THE VANDALS...

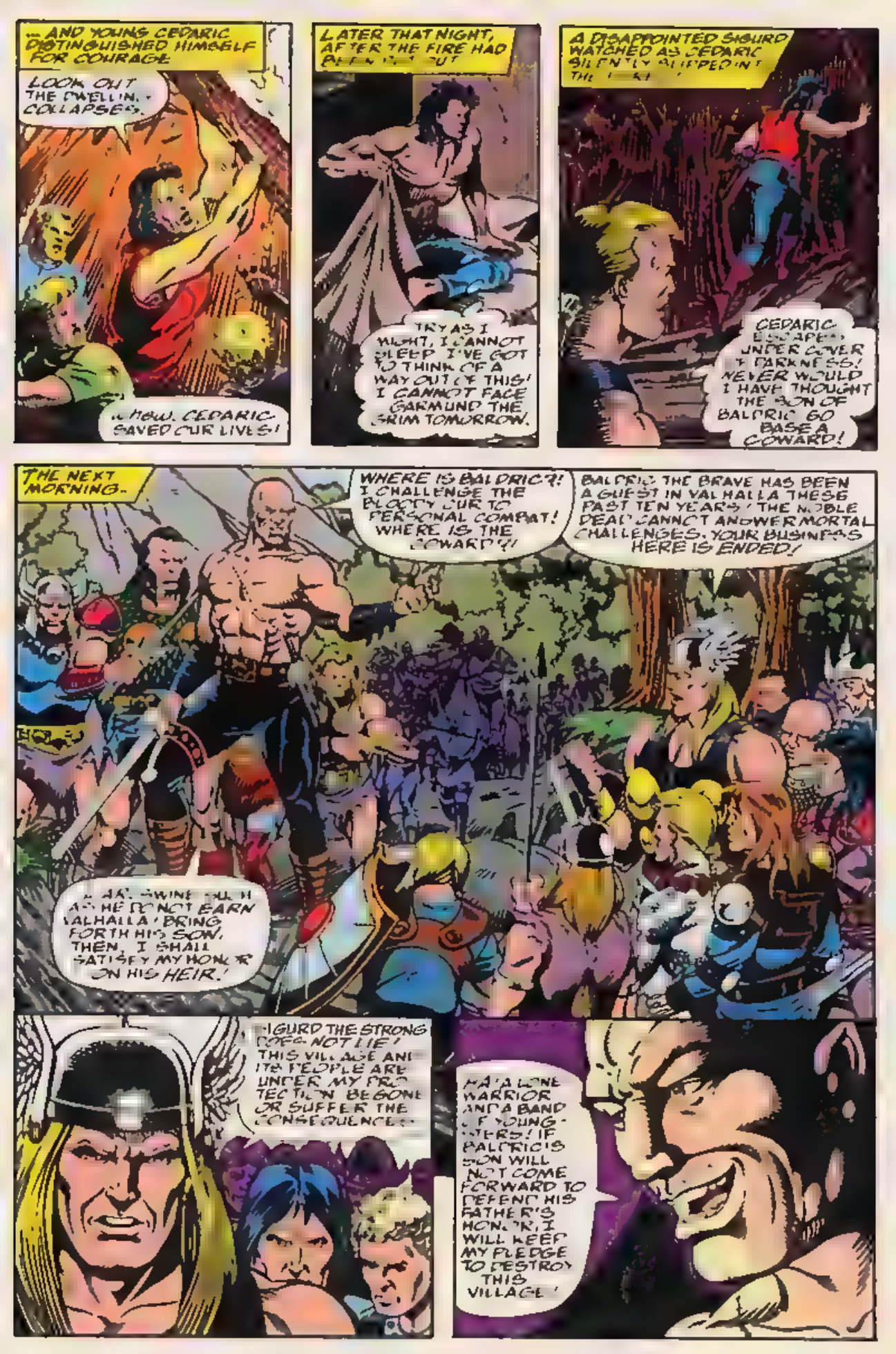

MEANWHILE...
THERE, BELOW US! THE VILLAGE OF MY HATED ONE, BALDRIC! I WILL ENJOY STRIPPING THE FLESH FROM HIS COWARDLY BONES!

AS THE SUN SET ON THE VILLAGE, AN ULTIMATUM WAS DELIVERED TO AN EXPECTANT POPULACE...
BALDRIC! SHOW YOURSELF, COWARD!!

YOU HAVE UNTIL SUNRISE TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO ME OR I WILL ENSLAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND PUT YOUR VILLAGE TO THE FLAME!
GARMUND THE GRIM HAS SPOKEN!


PREPARE TO GIVE THEM A SAMPLE OF GARMUND'S JUSTICE! READY THE DRAGON!

BY YOUR COMMAND GREAT SARMUNI
THE STOKER LIT THE PITCH AND OIL SOAKED WOOD AND THE FIRE BLAZED TO LIFE
FIRE!
THE VILLAGERS SCATTERED AS FIERY PROJECTILE MELTED THATCH
WHOOSH
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE DRAGON BELCHES FIRE UPON US!
GOD'S BLOOD! I'VE ARRIVED MINUTES TOO LATE. I MUST HELP THE VILLAGERS CONTAIN THE FIRE ELSE ALL IS LOST
WELL INTO THE EVENING, THE VILLAGERS WORKED TO CONTAIN THE BLAZE.
HURRY MORE WATER. IF THE FIRE SPREADS TO THE TANNING HUT ALL WILL BE LOST!


... AND YOUNG CEDRIC DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF FOR COURAGE
LOOK OUT THE DWELLING COLLAPSES.
... NOW, CEDRIC SAVED OUR LIVES!
LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER THE FIRE HAD BEEN PUT OUT
TRY AS I MIGHT, I CANNOT SLEEP. I'VE GOT TO THINK OF A WAY OUT OF THIS! I CANNOT FACE GARMUND THE GRIM TOMORROW.
A DISAPPOINTED SIGURD WATCHED AS CEDRIC SILENTLY SLIPPED INTO THE FOREST.
CEDRIC ESCAPES UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS! NEVER WOULD I HAVE THOUGHT THE SON OF BALDRIC SO BASE A COWARD!
THE NEXT MORNING...
WHERE IS BALDRIC?! I CHALLENGE THE BLOODY CUR TO PERSONAL COMBAT! WHERE IS THE COWARD?!
BALDRIC THE BRAVE HAS BEEN A GUEST IN VALHALLA THESE PAST TEN YEARS! THE NOBLE DEAD CANNOT ANSWER MORTAL CHALLENGES. YOUR BUSINESS HERE IS ENDED!
... AS HE DO NOT EARN VALHALLA! BRING FORTH HIS SON! THEN, I SHALL SATISFY MY HONOR ON HIS HEIR!
SIGURD THE STRONG DOES NOT LIE! THIS VILLAGE AND ITS PEOPLE ARE UNDER MY PROTECTION. BE GONE OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
HA! A LONE WARRIOR AND A BAND OF YOUNG SISTERS! IF BALDRIC'S SON WILL NOT COME FORWARD TO DEFEND HIS FATHER'S HONOR, I WILL KEEP MY PLEDGE TO DESTROY THIS VILLAGE!

FIRE!! DESTROY THEM ALL!

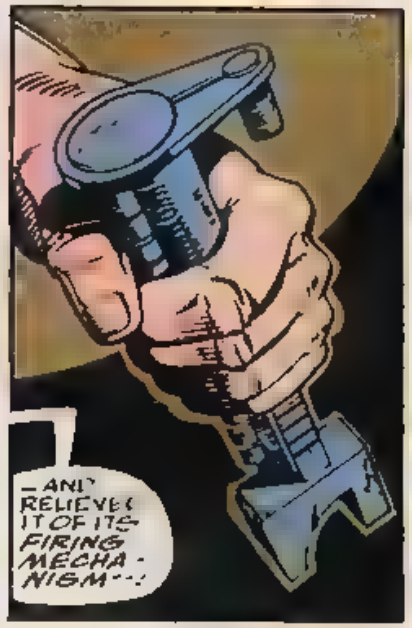
THE FIRING MECHANISM WAS ACTIVATED.

BUT THE RESULT WAS ENTIRELY UNINTENDED!

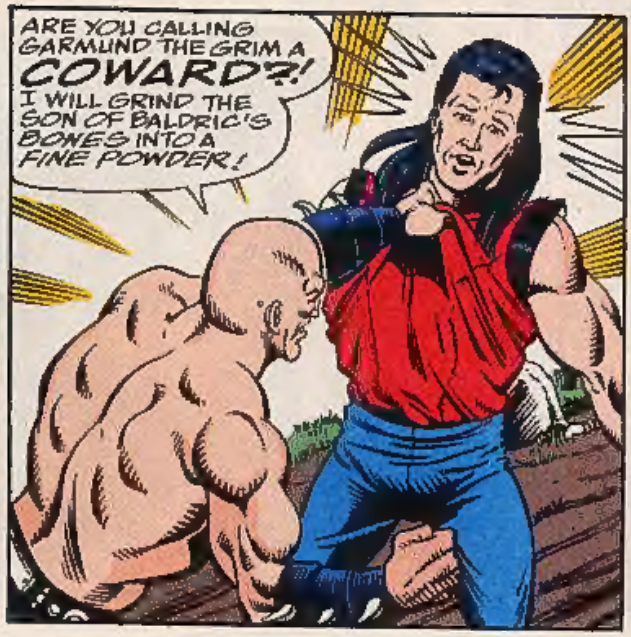
K-BLAM

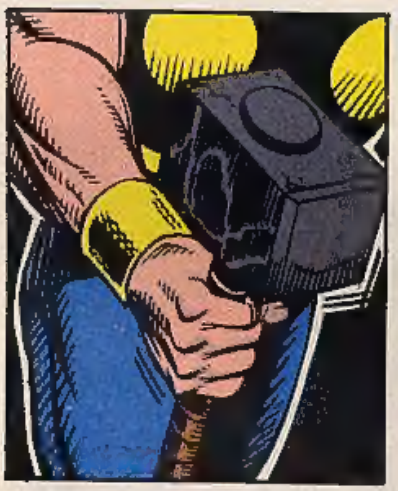
MY DRAGON!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY DRAGON??

SUDDENLY
I DESTROYED YOUR PRECIOUS DRAGON! IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A CLEVERLY DISGUISED CATAPULT!
I SNUCK INTO YOUR CAMP LAST NIGHT


...AND RELIEVED IT OF ITS FIRING MECHANISM...!

YOU LITTLE--!
I AM CEDARIC, SON OF BALDRIC, AND MY FATHER MAY HAVE BEEN MANY THINGS, BUT HE WAS NO COWARD! BALDRIC NEVER PLUNDERED INNOCENT WOMEN--
--AND CHILDREN WHILE HIDING BEHIND A MECHANICAL DRAGON!

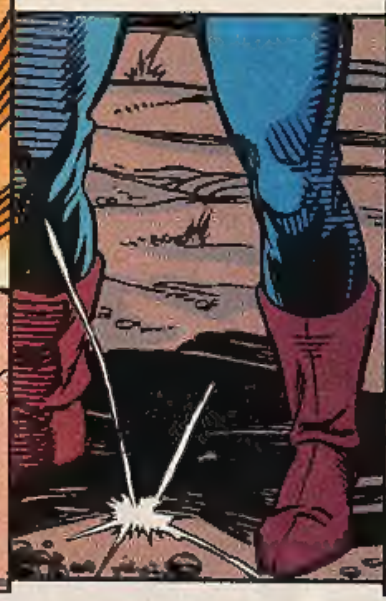

ARE YOU CALLING GARMUND THE GRIM A COWARD?!
I WILL GRIND THE SON OF BALDRIC'S BONES INTO A FINE POWDER!



GO AHEAD, KILL ME! BUT I TELL YOU THIS... YOU WON'T LIVE TO TAKE TWO STEPS! YOU'LL DIE TOO, BUT IT WON'T BE THE SORT OF DEATH THAT WILL EARN YOU A PLACE IN VALHALLA!

ASK YOURSELF. IS CEDARIC, SON OF BALDRIC, WORTH GOING TO HEL OVER?

PTUI!



WELL DONE, LAD! YOU GIVE THE WORD BRAVERY A WHOLE NEW DEPTH OF MEANING! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T ABANDON YOUR PEOPLE!

WHAAATT?
UNHAND ME, SIGURD!

IF WE HAD DONE THIS YOUR WAY, MOST OF US WOULD BE DEAD AND OUR HOMES DESTROYED!

WHEN WILL YOU WARRIORS LEARN THAT VIOLENCE ONLY BEGETS VIOLENCE? IN WAR, THERE IS GLORY ONLY FOR THE DEAD!
FOR THE LIVING THERE IS NAUGHT BUT SUFFERING!

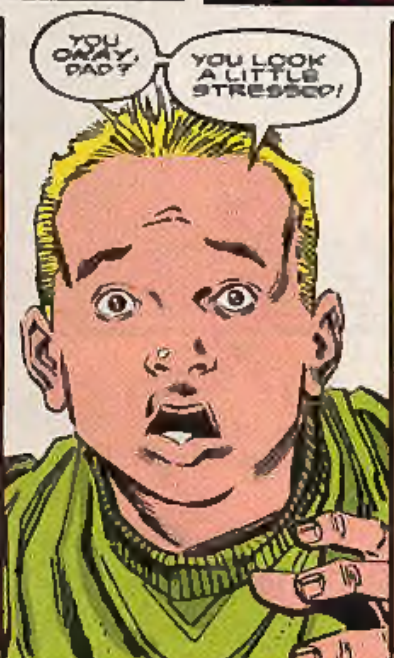
YAAAY, CEDARIC! LONG LIVE CEDARIC!!

TRULY HE IS AS BRAVE AS HIS FATHER, PERHAPS BRAVER, FOR HE STANDS AGAINST THE VALUES OF A CULTURE! EACH TIME I SOJOURN AMONG THE MORTALS I AM AWED BY THEIR NOBILITY.

S'FUNNY, I ALWAYS THINK OF THOR AS THIS GUY WHO CAN DO NO WRONG.
ANYONE CAN MAKE A MISTAKE, KEVIN...
BUT EVEN HE CAN BLOW IT ON OCCASION!
YEAH, I'LL BET CEDRIC NEVER EVEN REALIZED HE WAS A LOT LIKE HIS OLD MAN!

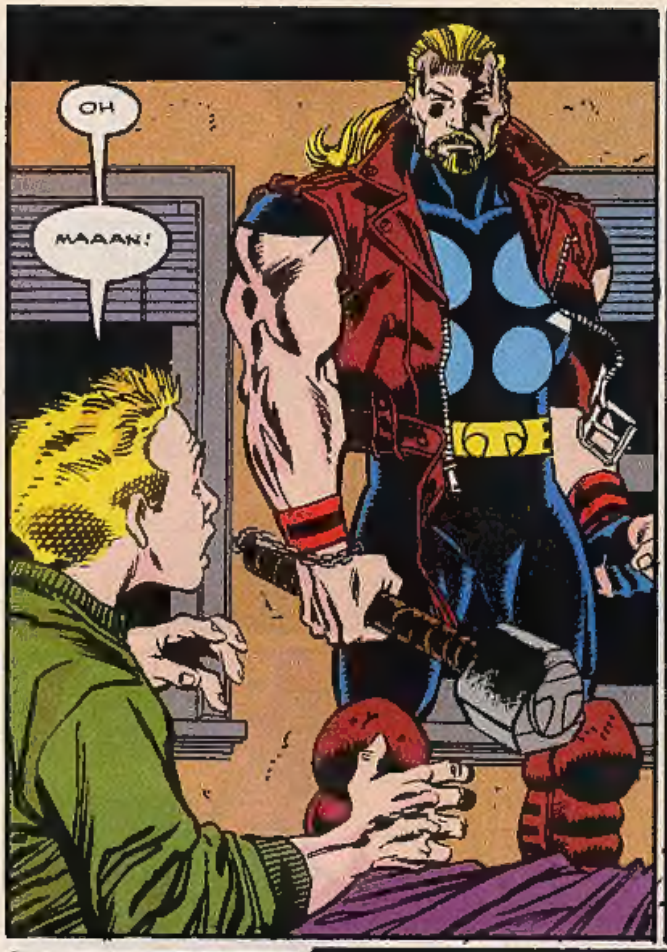
IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR A FATHER AND SON TO COMMUNICATE.
THEY BOTH HAVE THEIR OWN POINTS OF VIEW, THEIR OWN WAYS OF DEALING WITH PROBLEMS.
YOU JUST HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT IT'S NO CRIME TO DISAGREE WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

THIS IS IT! I MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE--!
KEVIN, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU FOR A LONG TIME. SOMETHING YOU DESERVE TO KNOW...


YOU OKAY, DAD?
YOU LOOK A LITTLE STRESSED!

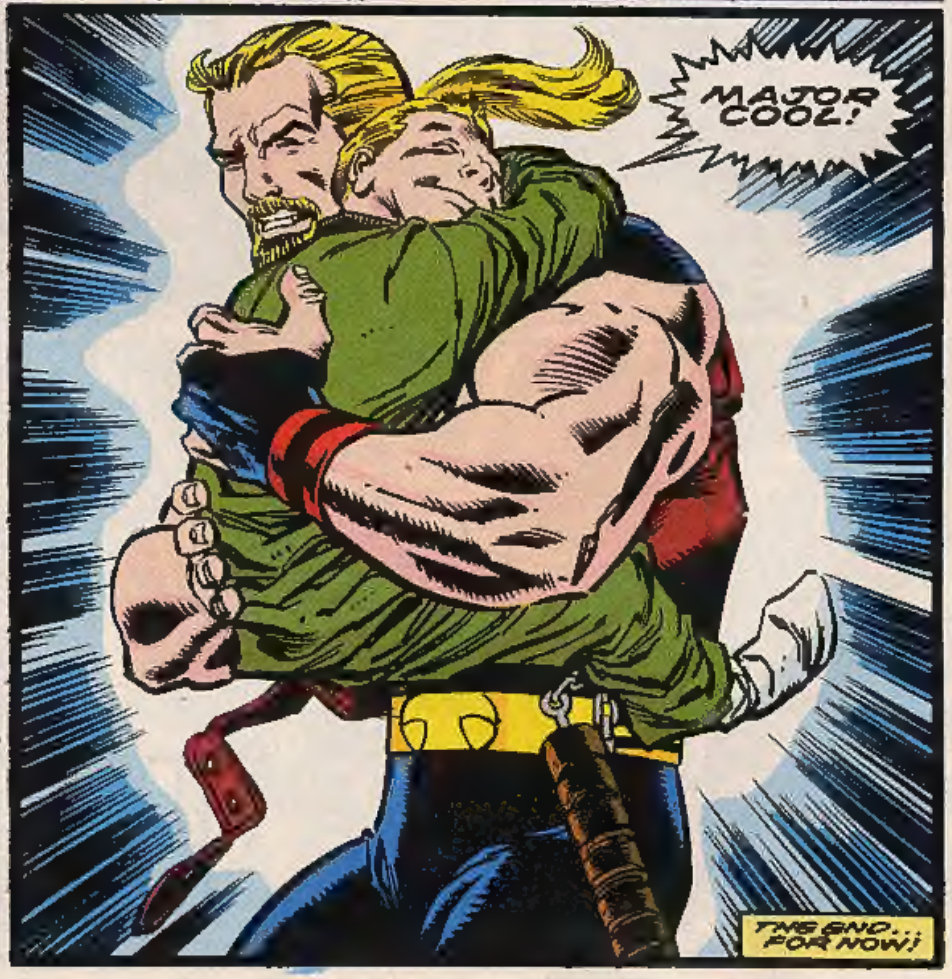
PAY ATTENTION, KEV...AND DON'T BE AFRAID!
YOU KNOW THAT I'D NEVER HURT YOU.

WATCH CLOSELY! I'M TRUSTING YOU WITH MY GREATEST SECRET, SON!
I'M GOING TO SHARE MY MOST PRIVATE CONFIDENCE...
KRAKKA-
THOOM!


OH
MAAAN!

YOU'RE... THUNDERSTRIKE!

COOL!


MAJOR COOL!
THE END... FOR NOW!